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141.

C O M F O R T

IN

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

Passages Selected

By Anne Chambers.

“ If sleepless in the night I lie,
My soul with heavenly thoughts supply ;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No powers of darkness me molest.”

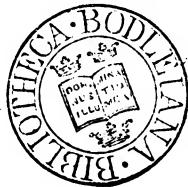
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1858.

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These passages were selected a few years ago for an invalid, during a long illness, in which the most trying feature was want of sleep. He kindly said he found them soothing and consoling. They are now published in the hope that others may receive the like comfort from them.



“ Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,
My heart untravell'd fondly turns to thee ;
Still to my brother turns with ceaseless pain,
And drags at each remove a lengthening chain ;
Eternal blessings crown my earliest friend,
And round his dwelling guardian saints attend.”

No. 1.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man ; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able ; but will, with the temptation, also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 COR., X, 13.

“ What treasures of love are laid open in this Scripture. Read, O my soul, and adore the exceeding riches of thy Heavenly Father’s grace ; He knew how needful afflictions were, both for the flesh and for the Spirit ; and therefore he appointed thee thy portion, and he has in mercy informed thee of his design in them. He has revealed his will for the ground of thy faith, that when he sends them thou mightest experience the blessings promised to his suffering children. The belief of his love in proportioning them to the ability given thee to bear them, would administer joy in sorrow, “ Thy joy would exceed thy sorrow ; ” “ Heaviness may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning.”

Take no thought for to-morrow — for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself; sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

MATTHEW, VI, 34.

“The transient joys and sorrows of the present life are not worth our solicitude; all our temporal and eternal interests are in the Lord’s hands; we should therefore be anxious for nothing except to know the state of our souls and the path of duty. We should carry unto God all our sorrows, fears, wants, or trials; for though he knows them beforehand he loves to hear them from us. Whatever our difficulties may be, we have always cause to unite grateful praises with our prayers and supplications: and in this we shall find inward satisfaction, and experience that peace of God which passeth all understanding.”

“Through all the dangers of my way,
Give strength sufficient for the day;
In all my grief thine aid impart,
To raise my head and cheer my heart.”

“O let thy hand support me still,
And bring me to thy Holy Hill,
Where sin and grief and pain shall cease,
And all is calm and joy and peace.”

No. 3.

The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble,
the name of the God of Jacob defend thee,
send thee help from the Sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Sion. PSALM XX, 1, 2.

“ All help and strength in the time of danger and sorrow, must be obtained by prayer from the heavenly Sion, which is in the Jerusalem above, and from the eternal temple thereon constructed. By this help and strength the Great Captain of our Salvation conquered, and his people must conquer through the same.”

“ Guide me, O thou Great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land ;
I am weak, but thou art mighty ;
Hold me with thy powerful hand.”

No. 4.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known unto God.

PHILIPPIANS IV, 6.

1

“ Prayer is the Christian’s vital breath,
The Christian’s native air,
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.”

2

“ Prayer is the contrite sinner’s voice
Returning from his ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice
And say, “ Behold he prays.”

3

“ Nor prayer is made on earth alone ;
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus on the eternal throne
For sinners intercedes.”

4

“ O Thou, by whom we come to God,
The life, the truth, the way,
The path of prayer thyself hast trod ;
Lord, teach us how to pray.”

Nevertheless though I am sometimes afraid,
yet put I my trust in thee. PSALM LVI, 3.

“ When we perceive the promises of the word of God, and the mighty succours of the Holy Spirit which are all on our side; we no longer fear the terrors or the weakness of flesh and blood, but find ourselves enabled to do and suffer all things, through faith in him who strengthens us. “ He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee, so that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

1

“ Wait, O my soul, thy Maker’s will ;
Tumultuous passions, all be still,
Nor let a murmuring thought arise;
His ways are just, his counsils wise.
He in the thickest darkness dwells,
Performs his work, the cause conceals ;
But tho’ his methods are unknown,
Judgment and truth support his throne.”

2

“ In heaven and earth and air and seas,
He executes his firm decrees,
And by his saints it stands confest,
That what he does is ever best.
Wait then my soul, submissive wait,
Prostrate before his mercy seat,
And ’midst the terrors of his rod,
Trust in a wise and gracious God.”

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies.

PSALM CIII, 2, 3, 4.

“ Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord.”

“ How are thy servants blest, O Lord !
How sure is their defence !
Eternal wisdom is their guide,
Their help, Omnipotence.”

In midst of dangers, fears and deaths,
Thy goodness I'll adore,
And praise thee for thy mercies past,
And humbly hope for more.

“ Have faith in God.”

MARK XI, 22.

“ O Lord God Almighty, vouchsafe to give me
that faith which can remove fears and sorrows,
though they may appear like mountains ; give
me that faith which will enable me to come to
the foot of the Cross and to “ behold the Lamb
of God which taketh away the sins of the
world.”

i

“ How glorious Sion’s courts appear,
The City of our God ;
His throne he hath established here,
Here fixed his loved abode.”

2

“ Here shall ye taste unmixed joys,
And dwell in perfect peace ;
Ye who have known Jehovah’s name,
And trusted in his grace.”

3

“ Trust in the Lord, for ever trust,
And banish all your fears ;
Strength in the Lord Jehovah dwells,
Eternal as his years.”

Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why
art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in
God, for I shall yet praise him who is the health
of my countenance, and my God.

PSALM XLII, 11.

1

“ Be still, my heart, these anxious cares,
To thee are burdens, thorns, and snares,
They cast dishonour on thy Lord,
And contradict his gracious word.”

2

“ Brought safely by his hand thus far,
Why wilt thou now give place to fear?
How canst thou want if he provide?
Or lose thy way with such a guide?”

3

“ When first before his mercy seat
Thou didst to him thine all commit,
He gave thee warrant from that hour,
To trust his wisdom, love, and power.”

4

“ Did ever trouble yet befall,
And he refuse to hear thy call?
And has he not his promise past,
That thou shalt overcome at last?”

Though the Lord cause grief yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.

LAMENTATIONS III, 32, 33.

“This is the end and design of the Lord’s chastisements, that we should keep the commandments of the Lord our God, to walk in his ways and to fear him. He does not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men. It is not for his pleasure, as if he delighted in our pain; but for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. Nothing but Almighty grace can subdue our rebellious wills, and bring them into a state of childlike submission. David knew this well by happy experience: “Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word.” “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.”

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS IV, 19.

“What a powerful motive is here for the strengthening of our Faith, that be our wants ever so many, ever so great, our God has engaged to supply them all ! We may boldly then cast all our care upon him, since he careth for us, and may rest assured of his managing our whole outward estate infinitely better than we could for ourselves. What trouble, what burdens, shall we be hereby eased of, what peace of mind shall we enjoy when we can give up all our temporal concerns into the Lord’s hands, and by faith see them all conducted for our good by his infinite wisdom and almighty love. Blessed surely is the man who thus putteth his trust in the Lord his God.”

No. 11.

I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings, and he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.

PSALM XL, 1, 2, 3.

“ While vessels on a tempestuous ocean are every moment in danger of being swallowed up by the yawning waves, the man whose house is built upon the rocky shore can view the storm fearless and undismayed. So the Christian whose refuge is the Mighty God, can calmly contemplate the tumultuous sea of life, and smile amid the wildest uproar of the maddening multitude. David enjoyed this peace when he said “ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.”

1

“ The billows swell, the winds are high,
Clouds overcast my wintry sky ;
Out of the depths to thee I call,
My fears are great, my strength is small.”

2

“ O Lord, the pilot’s part perform,
And guide and guard me through the storm ;
Defend me from each threatening ill,
Control the waves, say “ Peace, be still.”

No. 12.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

JOHN, XIV, 27.

“ Lord! grant me thy peace, and all that comes with it,—love, patience, resignation, thankfulness, deliverance from the fear of death, and an hearty longing for eternity.”

¹
“ Come Holy Spirit, calm my mind,
And fit me to approach my God,
Remove each vain, each worldly thought,
And lead me to thy blest abode.”

²
“ A brighter faith and hope impart,
And let me now my Saviour see;
Oh, soothe and cheer my burdened heart,
And bid my spirit rest in thee.”

O Lord, my God, I cried unto thee, and thou
hast healed me.

PSALM XXX, 2.

“ Deliverance is to be attained by prayer, for so David, and so the Son of David obtained it. The former was healed at his restoration to health and strength, the latter at his resurrection. The soul is healed at its repentance and conversion, and the body will hereafter be repaired, beautified, and glorified from the ruins of the grave.”

“ Father of mercies, “ till the day-spring rise,”
And thy salvation glad my longing eyes ;
Till doubt and fear like “ morning shadows flee,”
And all my griefs are lost in love of thee :
While through this cheerless wild I faintly strive,
Hope sore depress’d, and faith but just alive ;
Teach me to dread all guidance but thy own,
And patient tread “ in paths I have not known ; ”
Forgive my murmurings, let thy quickening power
Support my spirit in the gloomy hour.”

No. 14.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

1st PETER, I, 3.

1

“ There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign ;
Infinite day excludes the night,
And pleasures banish pain.”

2

“ There everlasting spring abides,
And never-fading flowers ;
Death like a narrow sea divides
This heavenly land from ours.”

3

“ O could we all our doubts remove,
Those gloomy doubts that rise,
And see the Canaan that we love,
With faith’s unclouded eyes.”

4

“ Could we but stand where Moses stood,
And view the landscape o’er,
Nor Jordan’s stream, nor death’s cold flood,
Should fright us from the shore.”

No. 15.

Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in
God, believe also in me.

JOHN XIV, 1.

“ Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
help me to lean my soul on thee. O Lord
Jesus Christ, who died for me, give me grace
to trust in thee and to love thee. O Holy
Ghost the Comforter, who art sent unto us from
the Father, enable me to believe the promises
of thy word, and to rest in full assurance of
hope of the glory to be revealed through Jesus
Christ our Lord.”

1

“ O God, the refuge of my soul,
On thee when sorrows rise,
And gloomy waves of trouble roll,
My trembling hope relies.”

2

“ To thee I tell each rising grief,
For thou alone canst heal,
Thy presence gives a sure relief
For every pain I feel.”

Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray.
Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

JAMES V, 13.

“ By prayer we obtain true peace of mind, that peace to which those who never pray are utter strangers : This peace is a calm and entire resting upon God for the supply of every necessity of body and soul, for time and for eternity—It is casting all our burden whatever it be, upon a kind, compassionate, almighty Friend, who willingly sustains, relieves, and comforts us—Let the Christian think of this. How calm and composed may he be, amid all the storms and distractions of this world, who has daily and hourly communion with the Creator, ruler, and preserver of all things.”

1

“ God of my life, to thee I call ;
Afflicted at thy feet I fall ;
When dangers rise and foes prevail,
Leave not my trembling heart to fail.”

2

“ Did ever mourner plead with thee,
And thou refuse that mourner’s plea ?
Does not thy promise yet remain,
That none shall seek thy face in vain ?

Trust in the Lord and do good ; so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart ; Commit thy way unto the Lord ; Trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass.

PSALM XXXVII, 4, 5, 6.

“ God is himself the highest object to which the soul in all its powers can be directed ; none ever trusted in him without increasing in spiritual strength ; none ever trusted in him without discovering more and more of the plans of his providence and of the depth of his unsearchable wisdom ; none ever trusted in him without tasting largely of his bounty. To trust, in its more advanced state, is to have the image of his perfections ever before us ; to live in his continual presence, encircled as it were by the visible forms of his majesty and goodness. What words can adequately pourtray the dignity of such a condition, the courage it inspires, the joy and gratitude and holy affection it breathes through the soul ? ”

“ O love the Lord, ye saints of his,
His eye regards the just ;
How richly bless'd their portion is,
Who make the Lord their trust.”

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

PSALM LXI, 2.

“The world is to Christians a sea of troubles and temptations, from which they daily beseech God to deliver them and to place them on the rock of their salvation, which rock is Christ. Grounded on him by faith in his sufferings and exaltation, we may defy all the storms and tempests that can be raised against us; while as from the top of a lofty mountain on the shore, we behold the waves dashing themselves in pieces beneath us.”

1

“Let cares like a wild deluge come,
And storms of sorrow fall,
May I but safely reach my home,
My God, my heaven, my all.”

2

“There shall I bathe my weary soul
In seas of heav’nly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll,
Across my peaceful breast.”

No. 19.

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. ISAIAH XXV, 4.

1

“ O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.”

2

“ Under the shadow of thy throne,
Thy servants dwell secure ;
Sufficient is thy arm alone,
And our defence is sure.”

3

“ And I am with you,” saith the Lord,
“ My saints shall safe abide ;
Nor will I e'er forsake my own,
For whom the Saviour died.”

4

“ Through ev'ry scene of life and death,
Thy promise is our trust ;
And this shall be our children's song,
When we are cold in dust.”

5

“ O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come ;
Be thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home.”

Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you; for every one that asketh, receiveth, and he that seeketh, findeth, and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. **MATTHEW VII, 7, 8.**

“These are sweet and precious answers to the prayer of faith. So long as the words ‘ask, seek, and knock,’ remain in the sacred volume, so long we may be assured that all who seek shall find. Lord, vouchsafe to me a praying spirit, that I may approach thee in the simplicity of faith, trusting in nothing but Jesus Christ, and desiring nothing so much as to know and love and serve thee, ‘whom to know is life eternal,’ and whom to love and serve is heaven begun.”

1

“What various hindrances we meet,
In coming to the mercy-seat;
Yet who that knows the worth of prayer,
But wishes to be often there?”

2

“Restraining prayer, we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the Christian’s armour bright,
And Satan trembles when he sees,
The weakest saint upon his knees.”

No. 21.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ,
we are of all men most miserable—but now is
Christ risen from the dead, and become the first
fruits of them that slept. 1st Cor. XV. 19 & 20.

“Saviour of the world, have compassion upon
mine infirmities, help me to have hope in thee,
even the hope of everlasting life; enable me by
faith to behold thee risen from the dead, sitting
at the right hand of God, making intercession
for us : And when thou shalt come again in thy
glorious majesty to judge both the quick and
the dead, may I be found acceptable in thy sight,
who livest and reignest with the Father and the
Holy Ghost, now and ever.”

1

He dies, the man of sorrows dies !
Lo ! Salem’s daughters weep around ;
A solemn darkness veils the skies,
A fearful trembling shakes the ground.

2

Yet wipe away your tears and tell
How high your great deliv’rer reigns ;
Sing how he spoil’d the hosts of hell,
And led his captive, Death, in chains.

3

Sing, “ Live for ever, wondrous King,
Born to redeem, and strong to save : ”
Sing, “ Where, O Death, is now thy sting,
And where thy victory, O Grave ? ”

Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have
need of all these things. MATTHEW VI, 32.

1

“ The Lord himself, the mighty Lord,
Vouchsafes to be my guide ;
The Shepherd by whose constant care
My wants are all supplied.”

2

“ In tender grass he makes me feed,
And gently there repose ;
Then leads me to cool shades and where,
Refreshing water flows.”

3

“ He does my wandering soul reclaim,
And to his endless praise,
Instruct with humble zeal to walk,
In his most righteous ways.”

4

“ I pass the gloomy vale of death,
From fear and danger free ;
For there his aiding rod and staff,
Defend and comfort me.”

There remaineth therefore a rest for the people of God. HEBREWS IV, 9.

“ O God of compassion and mercy, who never failest to listen to the prayers of thy humble servants, teach me to bring all my burdens unto thee ; Grant me a name and a place among thy people, that I may obtain everlasting rest and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1

“ As when the weary traveller gains,
The height of some commanding hill,
His heart revives, if o'er the plains,
He see his home, tho' distant still.”

2

“ So when the Christian pilgrim views,
By faith his mansion in the skies ;
That sight his fainting strength renews,
And wings his speed to reach the prize.”

3

“ The hope of heaven his spirit cheers,
No more he grieves for sorrows past ;
Nor any future conflict fears,
So he may safe arrive at last.”

4

“ O Lord, on thee our hopes depend,
To lead us on to thine abode,
Where endless joy shall well repay,
Our toils and trials on the road.”

He will swallow up death in victory, and the
Lord God will wipe away tears from off all
faces.

ISAIAH XXV, 8.

1

“ When gathering clouds around I view,
And days are dark and friends are few,
On him I lean, who not in vain,
Experienced every human pain ;
He sees my wants, allays my fears,
And counts and treasures up my tears.”

2

“ If vexing thoughts within me rise,
And sore dismay'd my spirit dies,
Still he who once vouchsafed to bear
The sickening anguish of despair,
Shall sweetly soothe, shall gently dry,
The throbbing heart, the streaming eye.”

3

“ When sorrowing o'er some stone I bend,
Which covers all that was a friend,
And from his voice, his hand, his smile,
Divides me—for a little while ;
Thou, Saviour, mark'st the tears I shed,
For thou didst weep o'er Lazarus dead.”

4

“ And O, when I have safely past,
Thro' every conflict—but the last,
Still, still unchanging, watch beside,
My painful bed,—for thou hast died ;
Then point to realms of cloudless day
And wipe the latest tear away.”

Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

1 TIMOTHY, IV, 8.

“ Let Godliness in its sovereign power be felt, and mark the effect which it will produce. It will instil into our minds patience and submission ; It will lighten our burden, or communicate strength to support us under it. It will teach us to look at joys which never fade, at a portion which shall never be taken from us, to an Almighty God, and to a wise and gracious Father. Faith will inspire us with fortitude, and hope will cheer us with the prospect of a better world to come, where every tear shall be wiped from our eyes, and where all things shall be made new.”

“ Religion ! Providence ! an after state !
Here is firm footing ; Here is solid rock ;
This can support us : all is sea besides,
Sinks under us, alarms, and then devours.
His hand the good man fastens on the skies,
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.”

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls ; For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. MATTHEW XI, 28, 29, 30.

“ How gracious are these words of Christ ; as if he had said, Come unto me, ye trembling sinners, be not afraid ; I will give you all that you want ; Come unto me, I will supply all your need out of my fulness ; Come unto me, I will bless you with all spiritual blessings ; I will strengthen you by my Spirit, I will comfort you with my promises ; Yea, I will never leave you till I have done that which I have spoken to you of : for ‘ where I am, there shall also my servant be.’ ”

1

“ Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long ;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.”

2

“ He comes the broken heart to bind,
To make the wounded whole,
And with the riches of his grace,
To bless the humble soul.”

Ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, " My son despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him ; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

HEBREWS XII, 5, 6.

" O thou who art the God of patience and consolation, strengthen me in the inner man, that I may bear the yoke and burden of the Lord without any uneasy and useless murmurs, or unwillingness ; be thou pleased to ease this load by fortifying my spirit, that I may be strongest when I am weakest, and may be able to do and to suffer everything thou pleasest, through Christ which strengtheneth me."

¹

" Child of the dust I heard thee mourn,
Will God forsake, and not return ?
Unhealed my wounds, my woes unknown,
Down to the grave I sink alone."

²

" But art thou thus indeed alone,
Quite unbefriended and unknown ?
And hast thou thus his love forgot,
Who formed thy frame and fixed thy lot ?"

³

" Each flutt'ring hope, each anxious fear,
Each lonely sigh, each silent tear,
To thine almighty friend are known,
And say'st thou, thou art all alone ?"

Who is among you that feareth the Lord,
that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walk-
eth in darkness, and hath no light? Let him
trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon his
God. ISAIAH L, 10.

“We are in darkness, clouds and darkness
are upon our spirits; many dark providences
befall us; we see not our way, and many times
know not what to do; now let us have faith on
the Lord Jesus Christ, he will bring light out
of darkness. We are under black fears and
sorrows, and all is dark night sometimes with
us; but if we can look up to this bright morn-
ing star, he will enlighten our darkness, he will
shine in upon our hearts, scatter every cloud,
and give us a joyful morning.”

1

“O teach us in the trying hour,
To trust thy love and own thy power,
To seek thee tho' thou seem to chide,
And wait till mercy be supplied.”

2

“Though heavy be the load we bear,
Teach us on thee to cast our care;
And grace and strength from thee obtain,
Whose love brings comfort out of pain.”

Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee.
PSALM LV, 22.

“ O God of mercy and loving kindness, I would come unto thee with all my sorrows, but my faith is weak—O Lord make thy face to shine upon me, and be gracious unto me—O Lord lift up the light of thy countenance upon me, and give me peace both now and evermore.”

1

“ Hear what God the Lord hath spoken,
O my people faint and few ;
Comfortless, afflicted, broken,
Fair abodes I build for you.”

2

“ Thorns of heartfelt tribulation,
Shall no more perplex your ways ;
Ye shall call your walls salvation,
And your gates shall all be praise.”

3

“ God shall rise and shining o'er ye,
Change to day the gloom of night ;
He, the Lord, shall be your glory,
God your everlasting light.”

No. 30.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life ; in thy presence is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. PSALM XVI, 11.

1

“ Ye boundless realms of joy,
Exalt your Maker’s fame,
His praise your song employ,
Above the starry frame.

Your voices raise,
Ye Cherubim,
And Seraphim,
To sing his praise.”

2

“ Thou moon that rul’st the night,
And sun that guid’st the day,
Ye glitt’ring stars of light,
To him your homage pay.

His praise declare,
Ye heav’ns above,
And clouds that move,
In liquid air.”

3

“ Let them adore the Lord,
And praise his holy name,
By whose almighty word,
They all from nothing came.

And all shall last,
From changes free,
His firm decree,
Stands ever fast.”

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth
to minister for them who shall be heirs of sal-
vation ?

HEBREWS I, 14.

“ Hereafter, we, if we be indeed christians, shall be more intimately united to angels. They now rejoice in our penitence, because they see another name written in heaven. They anxiously await our death, that they may see another soul enter into glory : With them so bright, so glorious, so excellent, has it pleased God, of his infinite mercy, to fix our eternal habitation. O blessed society, from which all envy and pride and anger and emulation and strife shall be for ever excluded ; where there will be but one employment, one spirit, one heart, one object—the glory of our Father and their Father, of our God and their God.”

1

“ High on a hill of dazzling light,
The king of glory spreads his seat,
And troops of angels stretched for flight,
Stand waiting round his awful feet.”

2

“ Thy winged troops, O God of Hosts,
Wait on thy wand’ring church below,
Here we are sailing to thy coasts,
Let angels be our convoy too.”

3

“ Are they not all thy servants, Lord ?
At thy command they go and come ;
With cheerful haste obey thy word,
And guard thy children to their home.”

The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe.

PROVERBS XVIII, 10.

“ Meditation on God our Saviour, as set forth in the Scriptures, will ever prove to the believer ‘a strong tower’ or fortress in which he will be safe from the darts of the enemy, and will be furnished with impregnable arguments, wherewith to oppose and blunt the force of every temptation, which Satan can launch against his soul.”

1

“ Begin, my tongue, some heavenly theme,
And speak some boundless thing ;
The mighty works or mightier name,
Of our eternal king.”

2

“ Proclaim salvation from the Lord,
For wretched dying men ;
His hand has writ the sacred word
With an immortal pen.”

3

“ His very word of grace is strong,
As that which built the skies ;
The voice that rolls the stars along
Speaks all the promises.”

No. 33.

Fear not, little flock ; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

LUKE XII, 32.

“Father I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies. O give me understanding in thy ways. Give me repentance and true faith in Jesus Christ, that I may be admitted into the ‘little flock’ of his disciples, and may obtain the kingdom which it is thy good pleasure to give to all who humbly trust in thee.”

1
“Jesus, the shepherd of the sheep !”
Thy ‘little flock’ in safety keep !
The flock for which thou cam’st from heaven,
The flock for which thy life was given.”

2
“Thou saw’st them wandering far from thee,
Secure as if from danger free ;
Thy love did all their wanderings trace,
And bring them to a ‘wealthy place’.”

3
“Lord bring thy sheep that wander yet,
And let their number be complete ;
And let thy flock from earth remove,
And occupy the fold above.”

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

ISAIAH XXVI, 3, 4.

“This peace which God gives is called a perfect peace, from the nature of it, rather than on account of its degree. It is a peace which is perfect, when compared with the peace of the world; perfect as having a foundation which cannot be moved; perfect as far as the faith from which it springs is perfect. It does not however follow that this faith may not sometimes fail, nor that this peace may not partake of the imperfection of the vessel which contains it: but even here we may trust to the mercy of God. Faith is his gift, he is the Author and Finisher of it. While Peter’s faith was strong, it produced its complete effect; he walked upon the waters: but as soon as his faith failed, he began to sink. Yet still, when he cried unto the Lord in his trouble, he delivered him out of his distress; the arm of the Almighty was extended, and his sinking servant saved. And this peace is communicated to him who trusteth in God, simply because he trusteth in him.”

No. 35.

What I do thou knowest not now, but thou
shalt know hereafter. JOHN XIII, 7.

1

“ God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform :
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.”

2

“ Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill ;
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will.”

3

“ Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and will break
In blessings on your head.”

4

“ Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace,
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.”

5

“ His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour,
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.”

6

“ Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain ;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.”

No. 36.

Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. JOHN VI, 37.

“Never be alone with your troubles. Call God into your confidence and counsels.”

1

“O God of mercy, God of might,
How should frail sinners bear the sight,
If, as thy power is surely here,
Thine open glory should appear ?”

2

“For now thy people are allow'd,
To scale the mount, and pierce the cloud,
And faith may feed her eager view,
With wonders Sinai never knew.”

3

“And doubt we yet? thou call'st again ;
A lower still, a sweeter strain ;
A voice from mercy's inmost shrine,
The very breath of love divine.”

4

“Whispering it says to each apart,
'Come unto me, thou trembling heart.'
And we must hope, so sweet the tone,
The precious words are all our own.”

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money ; come ye buy, and eat : yea come buy wine and milk without money and without price.

ISAIAH LV, 1.

“ All who thirst for pardon, grace, and salvation, are invited to come to God through Christ for them ; nay, all who thirst for happiness are exhorted to seek it from him. The blessings which he bestows are abundant like the waters, but they are pleasant and exhilarating as wine and milk ; and though they are too valuable to be bought with money, the Lord Jesus has purchased for us every blessing.”

“ O balmy gales of soul-reviving air !
O salutary streams that murmur there !
These flowing from the fount of grace above,
Those breathed from lips of everlasting love.
The flinty soil indeed their feet annoys ;
Chill blasts of trouble nip their springing joys ;
An envious world will interpose its frown
To mar delights superior to its own,
And many a pang experienced still within,
Reminds them of their hated inmate, sin ;
But ills of every shape and every name,
Transformed to blessings, miss their cruel aim ;
And every moment’s calm that soothes the breast,
Is given in earnest of eternal rest.”

Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that,
as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy
God chasteneth thee. DEUT. VIII, 5.

“Are the days of our pilgrimage here few and evil ; and does the life of man seem to be only a mixture of vanity and vexation ? Yet see how the glory of Christ the Redeemer, and of God through him, are connected with it. What a value is stamped upon life, when we behold the only Son of God taking upon him that life. Much as life is chequered with vicissitudes, defiled by pollution, burdened with cares, oppressed with sorrow, and abridged by death ; it is more than ennobled by the solicitude which the Almighty has expressed for it, by the love of Christ who gave his own life a ransom for sinners ; by the offices he undertakes in behalf of those who pray to him, by the means of grace provided for the benefit of their souls ; by the promises of God held out to them ; and by the influences of the Holy Ghost shed abroad in their hearts. Man then has the Spirit of God for his guide, the Son of God for his redeemer, the Almighty for his Father, the Gospel for his support, and heaven for his home.”

For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities ; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. HEBREWS IV, 15.

1

“ Child of man whose seed below,
Must fulfil their race of woe,
Heir of want and doubt and pain,
Does thy fainting heart complain ?
Oh ! in thought one night recall
— Night of grief in Herod’s hall,
There I bore the vengeance due,
Freely bore it all for you.”

2

“ Child of sin, by guilt opprest,
Heaves at last that throbbing breast ?
Hast thou felt the mourner’s part ?
Fearest thou now thy failing heart ?
Bear thee on, beloved of God,
Tread the path thy Saviour trod,
He the tempter’s power hath known,
He hath poured the garden groan.”

3

“ Child of heaven, by me restored,
Love thy Saviour, serve thy Lord ;
Sealed with that mysterious name,
Bear the cross and scorn the shame ;
Then like me, thy conflict o’er,
Thou shalt rise to sleep no more ;
Partner of my purchased throne,
One in joy, in glory one.”

My flesh and my heart faileth ; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

PSALM LXXXIII, 26.

“ It must be admitted that the dealings of God with his servants are often dark and mysterious, and that the mind which attempts to fathom them, will often ache and be faint. It must be acknowledged also, that the Christian is sometimes left for a season a prey to despondency ; but let us not blindly impeach the loving kindness and truth of Jehovah, nor rashly suspect the healing efficacy of his gospel of peace. In almost every instance it will be found to have been preceded by bodily indisposition, long-continued affliction, or excessive mental exertion. God has not deserted the sufferer, though he may seem to have forsaken him. Even the bitterness which has been poured into his cup may prove to be a blessing. The rising sun is not impeded in its course when its glory is obscured by the clouds : we see not its progress ; but while concealed from our view, it climbs higher and higher, and at length bursts forth from the mists which concealed it, shining in meridian splendour. One moment of heaven will recompense him for all the bitterness of his life ; and one smile from the throne of Jehovah will raise him to the summit of joy.”

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations ; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

JAMES I, 2, 3.

“ O my soul—though the trials thou meetest in thy path, for the present seem not joyous but grievous, yet put thy trust in the promises of thy God. Now thou seest through a glass darkly, but hereafter thou shalt see clearly the trial of thy faith ; ‘ let patience have her perfect work,’ and believe thy Saviour that he will remember thee in his kingdom.”

1

“ In trouble and in grief, O God,
Thy smile hath cheered my way ;
And joy hath budded from each thorn,
That round my footsteps lay.”

2

“ O gracious Lord ! whate’er my lot
In other times may be,
I’ll welcome still the heaviest grief,
That brings me near to thee.”

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines ; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the flocks shall yield no meat ; the flock shall be cut off from the fold and there shall be no herd in the stalls : yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. HABAKKUK III, 17, 18.

“ Here is a fountain whose streams can never dry up—Here is a sun which never goes down—The soul that draws all from the God of his salvation, will have that salvation to live upon, and to be an everlasting source of comfort.”

1

“ When in the hours of lonely woe,
I give my sorrows leave to flow ;
And anxious fear and dark distrust,
Weigh down my spirit to the dust ;”

2

“ When not e'en friendship's gentle aid,
Can heal the wounds the world has made ;
O this shall check each rising sigh,
My Saviour is for ever nigh.”

3

“ His counsels and upholding care,
My safety and my comfort are ;
And he shall guide me all my days,
Till glory crown the work of grace.”

No. 43.

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy
vows unto the Most Highest; and call upon me
in the time of trouble; so will I hear thee, and
thou shalt praise me. PSALM L, 14, 15.

“To a mind renewed by the Spirit of God, and touched with a true sense of his bounty, it is the highest gratification to behold in every blessing the expression of his parental kindness, and to cherish them as the pledges of his unfailing and everlasting mercy. In such a temper the service of our Maker is felt to be perfect freedom. Obedience is no longer a condition; it is a privilege; Not the means of happiness, but happiness itself. And thus the proof of our thankfulness becomes also its reward: God in his great wisdom and goodness, having so provided, that the very acknowledgment of his mercies should be the occasion of increasing them.”

1

“When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys;
Transported with the view I’m lost,
In wonder, love, and praise.”

2

“Ten thousand thousand precious gifts,
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart,
That tastes those gifts with joy.”

I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand,
saying unto thee, Fear not, I will help thee.

ISAIAH XLI, 13.

“Leave then, O my soul, all the future to thy heavenly Father. Be content to do and suffer his holy will on earth, fearless of dangers, and undismayed by doubts and alarms. Thy God will preserve thee. Let not the forebodings of evil unnerve thy powers of action and destroy thy peace, but commit thy body, soul, and spirit to Him who died for thee, and whose word is pledged that he will not fail thee nor forsake thee.

“Thou great intelligence supreme,
Sov’reign Director of this mighty frame,
Whose watchful hand, and all-observing ken,
Fashions the hearts and views the ways of men ;
Whether thy hand the plenteous table spread,
Or measure sparingly the daily bread ;
Whether or wealth or honours gild the scene,
Or wants deform, or wasting anguish stain ;
On thee let truth and virtue firm rely,
Bless’d in the care of thy approving eye.
Know that thy Providence, their constant friend,
Thro’ life shall guard them, and in death attend ;
With everlasting arms their cause embrace,
And crown the paths of piety with peace.”

No. 45.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things ?

ROMANS VIII, 32.

“ Learn, O believer, what thy Lord and God hath done for thy soul. He quickeneth thee from the death of trespasses and sins ; he giveth light and peace to thy mind ; he feedeth thee with the bread of life ; he cureth all thy spiritual diseases ; he quelleth thy manifold enemies and temptations ; he strengtheneth thee with strength in thy soul ; he doeth all that is done in thee by grace ; and he will never cease working in thee both to will and to do, until he hath brought thee to his kingdom in heaven.”

1

“ In every pang that rends the heart,
The Man of Sorrows hath a part ;
He sympathizes with our grief,
And to the sufferer sends relief.”

2

“ With boldness therefore at the throne,
Let us make all our sorrows known,
And ask the aid of heavenly power,
To help us in the evil hour.”

So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

JOHN III, 16.

“O Lord, give me grace to read these most comfortable words with attention, and to reflect upon them with deliberation ; that I may apply them to the comfort of my soul ; and so prevent all unreasonable doubts of thy gracious pardon and acceptance.”

“ The Saviour comes ! by ancient bards foretold,
Hear him, ye deaf ! and all ye blind, behold !
He from thick films shall purge the visual ray,
And on the sightless eyeballs pour the clay ;
’Tis he the obstructed paths of sound shall clear,
And bid new music charm th’ unfolding ear ;
The dumb shall sing, the lame his crutch forego,
And leap exulting like the bounding roe.”

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As the good Shepherd tends his fleecy care,
Seeks freshest pastures and the purest air ;
Explores the lost, the wandering sheep directs,
By day o’ersees them, and by night protects ;
The tender lambs he raises in his arms,
Feeds from his hand, and in his bosom warms :
Thus shall mankind his guardian care engage,
The promised Father of the future age.

Search me, O God, and know my heart, try
me and know my thoughts : And see if there be
any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting.

PSALM CXXXIX, 23, 24.

“ Do you find that your trust in God is sincere,
your desire towards him supreme, your obedi-
ence to him entire ? Prize these evidences of
soundness of heart. Thank God for them : they
are the workings of his mighty Spirit in your
heart, perhaps the answers to your prayers.
Diligently improve all the means of grace for
keeping your heart in a sound and healthy state.
Be much conversant with the word of God,
loving it for itself—for its holiness—for its
practical influences. Specially commune with
your own heart ; and watch it jealously, be-
cause of its proneness to live upon itself instead
of living by the faith of the Son of God.”

1

“ Be thou, O God ! by night, by day,
My guide, my guard from sin,
My life, my trust, my light divine,
To keep me pure within.”

2

“ So may my soul, upon the wings
Of faith unwearied rise,
Till at the gate of heaven it sings
Midst light from Paradise.”

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength ; they shall mount up with wings as eagles ; they shall run and not be weary ; and they shall walk and not faint.

ISAIAH XL, 31.

“Whoever always reposes in the good and holy will of God saves himself much trouble, and makes that supportable which an impatient and unsubdued self-will renders intolerable. May the Lord subdue this self-will more and more by the power of the cross of Christ.”

1

“O Saviour, we trust thee, our life is secure,
Thy wisdom is perfect, supreme is thy power ;
In love thou correctest, our souls to refine,
To make us at length in thy likeness to shine.

2

The feeble, the fearful, the weak are thy care ;
The helpless, the hopeless, thou hearest their
prayer ;
Still, still thou art with them, and faithful to
keep,
Though seeming amid the rough tempest to
sleep.”

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light to go by day and night. EXODUS XIII, 21.

“How painful must it have been to the Israelites, full of energy and ardour, longing to be pressing forward through the dangers and trials of the wilderness, to the enjoyment of the promised land, day after day to cast a wistful glance upon the tabernacle, and see the cloud still stationary, and week after week and month after month look in vain for its removal. What a much larger measure of grace does it require under almost every circumstance to wait for God than to work for God! And yet, however laudable our zeal, there are times in which patience is more laudable; and the highest attainment of the most active, ardent, and indefatigable Christian will be found in simple waiting for God and upon God, until the pillar of fire and cloud shall once more beckon him onward or upward.” Happy indeed is he who during the trying interval has learnt to say from the heart,

“I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation.”

“ It is good for me that I have been afflicted :
that I might learn thy statutes.

PSALM CXIX, 71.

Many Christians have been enabled to convert their trials into blessings, by gradually bringing themselves to devote the hours of wakeful and even painful nights to devout meditation and prayer. By doing at first some violence to their inclinations they have afterwards found in it both profit and pleasure. The night has been made to them a season of heart-searching thought and spiritual consolation. Solitude and stillness completely shut out the world, its business, its cares, its impertinences. The mind is sobered, the passions are stilled ; It seems to the watchful Christian as if there were in the universe only God and his own soul. It is an inexpressible consolation to him to feel that the one Being in the universe who never slumbereth nor sleepeth is the very Being to whom he has free access, even in the most unseasonable hours. The mind shoots forward beyond this vale of tears, beyond the dark valley of the shadow of death, to the joyful morning of the resurrection, and anticipates that blissful state when “ the Lamb himself shall be the light.”

No. 51.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1st CORINTHIANS II, 9.

1

“There is an hour of peaceful rest,
To mourning wanderers given ;
There is a tear for souls distrest,
A balm for every wounded breast—
‘Tis found above—in heaven !”

2

“There is a soft, a downy bed,
‘Tis fair, as breath of even ;
A couch for weary mortals spread,
Where they may rest their aching head,
And find repose in heaven !”

3

“There faith lifts up the tearful eye,
The heart with anguish riven ;
And views the tempest passing by,
The evening shadows quickly fly,
And all serene in heaven !”

Sing, O Heavens; and be joyful, O Earth;
and break forth into singing, O Mountains: for
the Lord hath comforted his people and will
have mercy upon his afflicted.

ISAIAH XLIX, 13.

“Blessed be God! The Gospel opens a source of pure, sweet, and substantial pleasures: We are invited to communion with God: We are called to share in the theme of angels; the songs of Heaven, and the wonders of redeeming love, are laid open to our view. The Lord himself is waiting to be gracious, waiting with promises and pardons in his hands.”

1

“If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.”

2

“Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in each we see:
Some softening gleam of love and prayer,
Shall dawn on every cross and care.”

No. 53.

Ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. **HEBREWS XII, 22, 23.**

“ Happy indeed art thou if thou canst say
“ My delight is with the saints that are upon
the earth, and with such as excel in virtue :”
“ My communion is with the Father of Spirits,
and with his Son Jesus Christ my Redeemer ;
I am also joined with the whole church of the
faithful below : I am occupied in the same work,
I possess the same comforts, I am warmed with
the same love. My soul unites itself to them
when I approach the Throne of Grace, and my
heart burns within me while I converse with
them upon the things of God.”

1 “ Let saints below in concert sing,

With those to glory gone,
For all the servants of our King
In heaven and earth are one.”

2 “ One family, we dwell in him,

One church, above, beneath ;
Though now divided by the stream —
The narrow stream of death.”

3 “ One army of the living God,

To his command we bow ;
Part of the host have cross'd the flood,
And part are crossing now.”

No. 54.

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him :
He also shall be my salvation.

Job XIII, 15, 16.

“ Wonder not at your trials, be they never so strange, and grievous, and distressing : some secret end is to be answered which you see not ; God is in all ; the hand and love of a Father are there. They are to keep you from sin, to wean you from the world, to bring you to the foot of the cross, to show you that “this is not your rest.” The reason of God’s dealings with you, you see not, but they are laid in infinite wisdom. You may believe him, trust him, hope in him, though you cannot see him : He knows his own way, let that suffice.”

1

“ O Thou whose mercy guides my way,
Though now it seems severe,
Forbid my unbelief to say,
There is no mercy here !”

2

“ Then though thou bend my spirit low,
Love only shall I see,
The very hand that strikes the blow,
Was wounded once for me.”

Whatsoever things were written afore time,
were written for our learning, that we through
patience and comfort of the scriptures might
have hope.

ROMANS XV, 4.

“The hope of the Gospel is founded on the promises of the Gospel. It has its root therefore in faith. It is among the fairest and most delightful fruits of that parent stock of all christian excellence. Hope, then, let us be persuaded—that hope which the writers of the New Testament perpetually exalt, is something far above the vague anticipation of an unknown future good. The hope of a Christian is secured to him by the most sacred and inviolable pledge, even the promise and the oath of Him who cannot fail.”

“Hope, with uplifted foot set free from earth,
Pants for the place of her ethereal birth,
On steady wings sails through the immense abyss,
Plucks amaranthine joys from bowers of bliss,
And crowns the soul, while yet a mourner here,
With wreaths like those triumphant spirits wear.
Hope, as an anchor firm and sure, holds fast
The christian vessel, and defies the blast.”

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever.

DEUTERONOMY XXIX, 29.

“Blessed be God for all that he has condescended to reveal to us now, and blessed be his Holy Name for all that he has promised we shall “know hereafter.” Let us not attempt to reconcile these apparent contradictions of which by our own confession, we can now see but so small a portion. Let us wait patiently with prayer and faith for the time, when all will be made plain, when we shall see as we are seen, and know even as we are known.”

“To recount Almighty works,
What words or tongue of Seraph can suffice,
Or heart of man suffice to comprehend?
Yet what thou canst attain, which best may serve
To glorify the maker, and infer
Thee also happier, shall not be withheld
Thy hearing;”

* * *

“Beyond, abstain
To ask, nor let thine own inventions hope
Things not reveal’d, which th’ invisible king,
Only omniscient, hath suppress’d in night;
To none communicable in earth or heaven:
Enough is left besides to search and know.”

I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever. JOHN XIV, 16.

“ Divine Spirit, the comforter, come unto us and abide with us for ever. Give us full confidence in our God. Give us the spirit of adoption, the spirit of grace, and of glory. Fill us with persevering, untiring love, even as the heavenly hosts who love God with a perfect love; Assure our hearts that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life, and that we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

¹
“ Spirit of Truth! on this thy day
To thee for help we cry,
To guide us through the dreary way
Of dark mortality.”

²
“ No heavenly harpings soothe our ear,
No mystic dreams we share!
Yet hope to feel thy comfort near,
And bless thee in our prayer.”

³
“ When tongues shall cease and power decay,
And knowledge empty prove,
Do thou thy trembling servants stay
With faith, with hope, with love.”

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2nd CORINTHIANS IV, 18.

“When we look within the veil, how poor, insignificant, and unsatisfactory, do the enjoyments of time appear! How slight and inconsiderable do we feel our troubles, when we look to the things which are unseen and eternal! Every successive view of these realities, delights, elevates, and purifies the spirit. The heart, while it dwells on them, is overcome by a sense of their grandeur, and satisfied by the conviction of their unspeakable worth. The mind is thus calmed. Meek resignation, and patient submission to the chastening hand of the Father of mercies, are cherished, in the full confidence that all is in love, and that the light and momentary afflictions of this state are working out a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

- 1 “The glorious hopes that cheer the just,
By thee, O Lord, were given:
Thy Spirit is the earnest now,
And seals their souls for heaven.”
- 2 “What faith rejoices to believe,
We long and pant to see:
O may we ever serve thee here,
As hastening on to thee.”

No. 59.

Have I not remembered thee in my bed;
and thought upon thee when I was waking?
Because thou hast been my helper; therefore
under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

PSALM LXIII, 7, 8.

“ If disqualifying pain or distressing languor prevent the utterance of supplication, patience itself is a prayer, and a prayer that will not fail to be heard; the tender mercy of our compassionate Father will make sense and find meaning in a prayer which is almost unintelligible to the languid sufferer who offers it. God wants not to be informed—he only wants to be remembered, to be loved, to be sought.”

1

“ When restless on my bed I lie,
Still courting sleep which still will fly,
Then shall reflection’s brighter power
Illuminate the lone and midnight hour.”

2

“ If loud the wind, the tempest high,
And darkness wraps the sullen sky,
I muse on life’s tempestuous sea,
And sigh, O Lord, to come to thee.”

3

“ Toss’d on the deep and swelling wave,
O mark my trembling soul, and save;
Give to my view that harbour near,
Where thou wilt chase each grief and fear.”

I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS VIII, 38, 39.

“ In this way the Christian embraces the Gospel. He is enabled to hope against hope, to believe it as the grand charter of his salvation ; and this very act of believing, is the evidence within, concurring with the evidence of the written word without, that his name is enrolled in the charter, and that he is consequently entitled to all its blessings. Take heart therefore thou child of God, and fear not. Thou hast the promise, the power, the mercy, and the truth of Jehovah on thy side ; and who can prevail against him ? If thou dost not wholly believe, or art not perfectly cleared from all thy doubts, be not however dismayed. Thou desirest to trust him with thy whole heart ; He was the author, and He will be the finisher of thy faith. If God did not spare his own Son for thee, what will he spare besides ? ”

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

JOHN VI, 35.

“To whom, Blessed Lord Jesus, should we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, Thou art the true tree of life, in the midst of the Paradise of God. For us men and for our salvation thou didst condescend to be planted in a lowly form upon the earth. But thy head soon reached to heaven, and thy branches to the ends of the earth. Thy head is crowned with glory, and thy branches are the branches of honour and grace. Medicinal are thy leaves to heal every malady, and thy fruits are all the blessings of immortality. It is our hope, our comfort, and all our joy to reflect that, wearied with the labours and worn out with the cares and sorrows of a fallen world, we shall sit down under thy shadow with great delight, and thy fruit shall be sweet to our taste.”

1

“Be ours, O King of mercy still,
To feel thy presence from above,
And in thy word, and in thy will,
To hear thy voice, and know thy love.”

2

“And when the toils of life are done,
And nature waits thy dread decree,
To find our rest beneath thy throne,
And look in humble hope to thee.”

Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust
and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my
strength and my song; he also is become my
salvation.

ISAIAH XII, 2.

“Our whole salvation results from the infinite love and mercy of God the Father: It was contrived by his infinite wisdom; and rests on his infinite power and truth. It is altogether communicated through the person and mediation of God the Son; and it is applied by the new creating power of God the Holy Spirit, so that in every sense God is the salvation of his people. Thus the eternal God is become the Saviour of the world: and is “in Christ,” the support, protector, and friend of every believer; Having Jehovah, the eternal God, for our strength and song, though we must encounter difficulties, endure hardships, and experience sharp conflicts, we have “wells of salvation” opened on every side; and drawing from them the waters of life and consolation by faith and prayer, we may rejoice in the midst of tribulation, and find some foretastes of heaven in communion with the Lord.”

No. 63.

Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people : O visit me with thy salvation. PSALM CVI, 4.

“ Salvation expresses not only that which is negative ; but implies likewise positive and perfect happiness : Thus forgiveness of sins is put for the whole nature of justification frequently in scripture. It is more easy to say of this unspeakable happiness, what it is not than what it is. There is in it a full and final freedom from all annoyance ; all tears are wiped away, and their fountain is dried up ; all feelings and fear, or danger of any—the least evil, either of sin or punishment, is banished for ever : there are no invasions of enemies, no robbing or destroying in all this holy mountain, no voice of complaining in the streets of the new Jerusalem. Here it is at the best but interchanges of mornings of joy, with sad evenings of weeping : but there, there shall be no light, no need of sun nor moon, “ for the glory of the Lord shall lighten it, and the Lamb shall be the light thereof.”

1 “ Salvation ! Oh Salvation,
The joyful sound proclaim,
Till each remotest nation,
Has learned Messiah’s name.”

2 “ Waft, waft, ye winds, the story,
And on, ye waters, roll,
Till like a sea of glory,
It spreads from pole to pole.”

3 “ Till o’er our ransomed nature,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator,
In bliss returns to reign.”

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear. 1st JOHN IV, 18.

“A contented and hopeful dependence on God, a cheerful acquiescence in all which He determines, a frame of mind which converts into an unceasing source of pleasure our recollection of that strength on which we rely, that wisdom which is conspicuous alike in every instance of good or evil fortune; such a feeling can proceed from love to God alone. “Perfect love,” said he, who of all men most loved Christ, and whom more than all other men, Christ, in the time of His humiliation, loved, “Perfect love casteth out fear.”

1

“Happy the heart where graces reign;
Where love inspires the breast:
Love is the brightest of the train,
And perfects all the rest.”

2

“This is the grace that lives and sings,
When faith and hope shall cease;
”Tis this shall strike our joyful strings,
In the sweet realms of bliss.”

3

“When joined to that harmonious throng,
That fills the choirs above,
Then shall we tune our golden harps,
And every note be love.”

Whoso is wise, and will observe these things,
even they shall understand the loving kindness
of the Lord.

PSALM CVII, 43.

“ If we examine the world in which we live, we shall every where discover variety, changeableness, and succession. Here plains rise into mountains, and there hills sink into valleys. We see well-watered meadows, and dry and barren sands. We rejoice in the light, but we are soon enveloped in darkness. We hail the loveliness of spring and welcome the approach of summer ; but soon the agreeable months roll away, and the north pours down the desolations of winter. Equally chequered and variable is human life. Our conditions and circumstances are perpetually changing. But this diversity constitutes the beauty and the glory of Providence. It displays the divine perfections, by rendering their interposition necessary and obvious. It furnishes means by which the dispositions of men are tried, and their characters formed. It lays hold of their hope and fear, joy and sorrow ; and exercises every principle of their nature in their preparation for eternity.”

“ Thou art, O God, the life and light,
Of all this wondrous world we see ;
Its glow by day, its smile by night,
Are but reflections caught from thee :
Where'er we turn thy glories shine,
And all things fair and bright are thine.”

For thus saith the Lord God ; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out : I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be : there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

EZEKIEL XXXIV, 11, 14.

- 1 "The Lord my pasture shall prepare,
And feed me with a shepherd's care :
His presence shall my wants supply,
And guard me with a watchful eye ;
My noonday walks he shall attend,
And all my midnight hours defend.
- 2 When in the sultry glebe I faint,
Or on the thirsty mountains pant ;
To fertile vales, and dewy meads,
My weary, wandering steps he leads ;
Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow.
- 3 Though in the paths of death I tread,
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My steadfast heart shall fear no ill,
For thou, O Lord, art with me still ;
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.
- 4 Though in a bare and rugged way,
Through devious, lonely wilds I stray,
Thy bounty shall my pains beguile :
The barren wilderness shall smile,
With sudden greens and herbage crown'd ;
And streams shall murmur all around."

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

DEUTERONOMY XXXII, 4.

“ How comforting to the Christian to know that his God is “the Rock, and that his work is perfect.” Such a rock is He, that all the weight of all the cares, and sorrows, and difficulties and trials of life, may, in every individual case, be laid upon him in perfect security, that he will bear all, support all, and strengthen us to bear and support more than all that the weariest lot on earth can cast upon us. While in so trusting to our Rock, and so, in simple dependence, laying our utter weakness upon his infinite strength, we are doing no more than He expects, no more than He promises, nay, no more than He commands ; for is it not written, “ Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you ? ”

- 1 “ My soul shall cry to thee, O Lord,
To thee, supreme incarnate Word,
My rock and fortress, shield and friend,
Creator, Saviour, source, and end ;
And thou wilt hear thy servant’s prayer,
Though death and darkness speak despair.
- 2 Ah, why by passing clouds oppress’d ?
Should vexing thoughts distract thy breast ?
Turn, turn to him in every pain,
Whom never suppliant sought in vain ;
Thy strength in joy’s ecstatic day,
Thy hope when joy has passed away.”

The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

ROMANS X, 12.

“Were it not for divine help, what should I do? Like Peter on the sea, I have sometimes ventured boldly after my Lord; but like him too, through faintness of heart and weakness of faith, at other times I have cried out, “Lord, save me, or I perish!” Thou hast helped me indeed, blessed be thy name, O my God, and yet I cannot but reproach myself for the cold forgetfulness and weakness of my spirit, in doubting so often of thy faithfulness, and in not keeping hold of thy promises.”

1

“Lord, before thy throne we bend,
Lord to thee our eyes ascend;
Servants to our Master true,
Lo, we yield the homage due;
Children, to our Sire we fly,
Abba, Father, hear our cry!”

2

“To the dust our knees we bow;
We are weak, but mighty thou;
Sore distress'd, yet suppliant still,
We await thy Holy Will:
Bound to earth and rooted here
Till our Saviour God appear.”

Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord
God Almighty ; just and true are thy ways, thou
King of saints. REVELATIONS XV, 3.

1

“Through all the changing scenes of life,
In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still
My heart and tongue employ.”

2

“Of his deliverance I will boast,
Till all that are distrest
From my example comfort take,
And charm their grieves to rest.”

3

“O magnify the Lord with me,
With me exalt his name ;
When in distress to him I call’d,
He to my rescue came.”

4

“The hosts of God encamp around
The dwellings of the just ;
Deliverance he affords to all
Who on his succour trust.”

5

“O make but trial of his love,
Experience will decide
How bless’d are they and only they,
Who in his truth confide.”

We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. Acts XIV, 22.

“All Christians have been taught in one school. All have known the power of affliction in some of its varied forms of inward conflict or outward trouble; and the experience derived from this source, has given abundant evidence, that the pains bestowed upon them have not been in vain. “Now” is each of them ready to say—“Now have I kept thy word.” I never prized it before. I could indeed scarcely be said to know it. I never understood its comfort until affliction expounded it to me. I never till now saw its suitableness to my case.”

1

“O Thou, who dry’st the mourner’s tear,
How dark this world would be,
If, when deceiv’d and wounded here,
We could not fly to thee.”

2

“But thou wilt heal that broken heart,
Which like the plants that throw
Their fragrance from the wounded part,
Breathes sweetness out of woe.”

3

“Then sorrow touched by thee grows bright,
With more than rapture’s ray;
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day.”

Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy ; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. **ISAIAH LVII, 15.**

“The high and holy place of heaven is God’s special residence, but he has also a habitation on earth, in which he peculiarly delights, and that is, the heart which is broken down under the sense of guilt and unworthiness, and deeply humbled before him ; which is crushed as it were, in self-abasement. With such persons the Lord will dwell, in order to revive their drooping spirits, and comfort their dejected hearts, and give them life eternal.”

- 1 “Before Jehovah’s awful throne,
Ye nations bow with sacred joy ;
Know that the Lord is God alone,
He can create and he destroy.
- 2 His sovereign power, without our aid,
Made us of clay, and formed us men ;
And when like wandering sheep we stray’d,
He brought us to his fold again.
- 3 We’ll crowd thy gates with thankful songs ;
High as the heavens our voices raise ;
And earth with her ten thousand tongues,
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.
- 4 Wide as the world is thy command ;
Vast as eternity thy love ;
Firm as a rock thy truth shall stand,
When rolling years shall cease to move.”

No. 72.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.

2nd THESSALONIANS II, 16, 17.

“The Christian never finds this world to be his rest. He is called to a life of labour and difficulty; of mortification and reproach. His afflictions are many. But he possesses one incomparable advantage; he has a hope full of immortality. This teaches him in whatsoever state he is, therewith to be content: this enlightens his darkness, and alleviates his sorrow. Like a helmet of salvation, it guards his head in the day of battle. Like an anchor of the soul, it holds and secures him in the storms of adversity. Like a pleasing companion, it travels with him through all the tediousness of the wilderness, and often reminds him of his removal from this vale of tears, to the rest that remains for the people of God.”

1 “Come, Saviour, come, Creator Lord,
Substantial Light, Eternal Word,

Thy chosen seed redeem;

Awake as in the olden time,

And marshal all thy hosts sublime,

And bid thy banner stream.

2 And Oh! while yet we linger here,

With promised grace descend and cheer,

Our doubtful path below;

That strong in Faith, and warm with Love,

With steady aim our feet may move,

Our grateful bosoms glow.”

No. 73.

These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

REVELATIONS VII, 14.

“ Let us remember that this innumerable company were once men of like passions with ourselves ; they have come out of great tribulation ; they once sighed and groaned under sufferings and sorrows as deep and grievous as those by which any of us are afflicted. O ! what an invaluable and sure source of consolation is it, to every pious Christian suffering under the weight of worldly calamities, to direct his contemplation to this glorious host above ! standing before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palms in their hands ; methinks they say to him, “ We were once as you are ; we were assaulted by the same temptations, we were stricken by the same arrows ; often were we ready to faint ; often we cried to God in an agony of grief ; we felt all the weakness of our faith, and trembled under the infirmities of our common nature. Faint not therefore in your course. Be strong, fear not ; your God will come : he will come with a recompense and save you.”

- 1 “Then, Christian, dry the falling tear,
The faithless doubt remove ;
Redeemed at last from guilt and fear,
O wake thy heart to love.”
- 2 “A Saviour’s blood hath bought thy peace,
Thy Saviour God adore ;
He bade the throb of terror cease,
The pains of guilt he bore.”

In my Father's house are many mansions :
if it were not so, I would have told you.

JOHN XIV, 2.

" In these words, we have such a consoling promise, and such a valuable legacy bequeathed to us by our Redeemer, as must ever support the believer under the most calamitous events of life, and animate him in his Christian course. When Jesus Christ had prepared his disciples for the sufferings that awaited both himself and them, fearful lest he should overpower them with grief, he mitigates their sorrow, cheers their drooping minds by directing their thoughts to that blessed abode which is to be attained through much tribulation. " If it were not so, I would have told you," implying that his affectionate regard for them rendered it impossible that he should deceive them : " believe me there is hope, there is glory beyond the grave : in that immortal state to which I am going, there are many mansions, many abodes for my people," meaning that there is room in heaven for all, that the " coast" of Paradise is indeed " enlarged ;" though millions of glorified spirits already " dwell in the courts of the house of the Lord," " there is yet room." This is comfort to desponding Christians. " The way is narrow," said Christ, to excite our diligence, but " there are many mansions," to encourage our hopes."

I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. JOHN XIV, 2, 3.

“As if the Saviour had said, “Be not ye dismayed, be not dejected by the evils of this transient life; ye believe in God who has created and preserved you, have faith, have confidence in me.” It was indeed needful that Christ should leave his people for a time, for sin had closed the gate of those mansions, which none could open but the Great High Priest, whose precious blood would make atonement for the transgressions of his people. Delightful indeed! is the idea of a mansion, an abiding place, in that heavenly home, to a poor wandering pilgrim; but what a height must our joy attain, when we hear that this home will be the mansion of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! that where He is, we shall be also, partakers with Christ in the joy of those blissful regions which his atoning blood has purchased, his infinite love prepared. At the dedication of the temple, the wise monarch rapturously exclaimed, “Will God indeed dwell on earth?” How much greater reason have we to say, Shall man indeed dwell with God in heaven?”

“Oh ! God ! O good beyond compare !
If thus thy meaner works are fair !
If thus thy bounties gild the span
Of ruined earth, and sinful man,
How glorious must the mansion be
Where thy redeemed shall dwell with thee.”

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy ; To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

JUDE, 24, 25.

“ Gracious Saviour ! how full of love thou art ! thou wilt glorify thy Father, thou wilt magnify his name with thanksgivings. Help us to sing thy song. Send the spirit of love and harmony into our hearts, that we may catch the strains of the angelic choirs. The same spirit that animates the redeemed before the throne must inspire the redeemed before the footstool. To both, the same beautiful and everlasting song belongs, and to both, there is but one and the same leader, even Jesus the firstborn among many brethren.”

- 1 “ Sing praises to God in full harmony joining,
Ye mortals below and ye seraphs above ;
Through earth and through air let your accents
combining,
Extol the great acts of his power and his love.
- 2 O praise him aloud, in the full sounding mea-
sures,
That trumpets and organs symphonious inspire,
Let lutes lend their sweetness to these holy
pleasures,
And deeply devout be the strains of the Lyre.
- 3 Be vocal, ye mute, to the Lord of creation,
In echoes your tribute of gratitude raise ;
And all that have breath, in sublime adoration,
The breath that he gave you employ in his praise.”

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